

Notes

FLORIDA'S EDUCATION 2012 REPORT CARD



GRADING SUNSHINE STATE LEGISLATORS'
SUPPORT OF EDUCATION REFORM



Florida's Education **Report Card** 2012

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Dear Floridians,

Lawmakers put students first in 2012. Building on Florida's foundation of transformational policies, the Legislature launched new student-centered reforms. These bills empower more parents to choose the best schools to meet their children's needs, expand students' access to customized education and begin a revolutionary shift in our state towards funding education based on student learning—instead of days on a calendar.

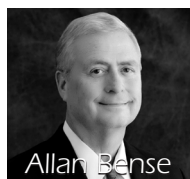
For nearly 15 years, Florida has committed to the belief that all students can learn, and during this time, we have witnessed incredible gains in student learning. The boys and girls in our state lead the nation in student achievement, yet our journey is far from over. Today's students are not just competing with those in other states for jobs—they are competing against their peers in other countries. We cannot rest until every child is receiving the education that prepares him or her to succeed in our global economy. These students are the future of our communities, our economy and our government. They deserve to remain our number one priority.

Because of the vision and dedication of today's leaders, Florida is writing the next chapter of bold, transformational reform. Thanks to their leadership, our state is one step closer to equipping each and every student with the quality, customized education they need to thrive in and beyond the classroom.

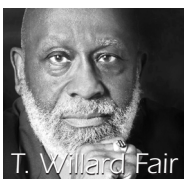
Sincerely,

Chairman

Board of Directors



Allan Bense



T. Willard Fair



Pepe Fanjul, Jr.



F. Phillip Handy



Al Hoffman, Jr.



Toni Jennings



Julia Johnson



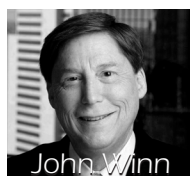
Susan Pareigis



Linda Taylor



Trey Traviesa



John Winn



Brian Yablonski



Dr. Zachariah P.
Zachariah

Florida's Education Report Card

Florida's Education Report Card grades legislators on their efforts to improve the quality of education in the Sunshine State. By grading lawmakers on a scale of A–F, just like students and schools, Florida's Education Report Card gives the public a clear and comprehensive assessment of who is keeping the promise of a quality education in the Sunshine State.

Principles

The Foundation for Florida's Future measures reforms based on seven core principles:

- ✓ Rigorous Academic Standards
- ✓ Measurement of Proficiency and Progress
- ✓ Data-Driven Accountability
- ✓ Effective Teachers and Leaders
- ✓ Outcome-Based Funding
- ✓ School Choice
- ✓ Digital Learning



Grading Scale

Notes					
A+	101 OR MORE	C	70 - 79		
A	90 - 100	D	60 - 69		
B	80 - 89	F	59 OR LESS		

Grades are based on legislators' voting records and demonstrations of leadership.

To learn more or to donate to the Foundation for Florida's Future, visit:

www.afloridapromise.org

2012 Reform Agenda

- ✓ Empowering Parents and Students
- ✓ Transforming Education with Technology
- ✓ Funding Student Achievement
- ✓ Strengthening and Streamlining Accountability



Empowering Parents and Students

Parental involvement is key for student success. Florida's moms and dads must be equipped to make informed choices regarding their student's education. Every parent should have a choice and a voice in their child's education, whether that means selecting the best school for their child or improving their current school.

PASSED

HB 859 – The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program gives low-income families the ability to select the school that will meet their child's unique needs and learning styles. This legislation expands access and eligibility to more students.

Legislation Highlights:

- ✓ Increases the statewide tax credit cap, enabling 2,300 more children from low-income families to receive scholarships.
- ✓ Expands eligibility by removing the requirement that students in K–5 must have been enrolled in a Florida public school the year before they applied for the scholarship. Now, any low-income student in these grades can participate in the program regardless of whether or not the student was in the public school system the prior year.

NOT PASSED

SB 1718 – This legislation failed to pass its final vote in the Senate, but it would have guaranteed Florida students the right to learn from effective educators and empowered parents with the information and tools they need to make informed, active decisions regarding the quality of their child's education.

Legislation Highlights:

- ✓ Would have created a Parent Empowerment Act, equipping more parents with the right to have a seat at the table with school leaders to improve their child's persistently failing school. Parents of students in "F" schools would have had a voice and vote to help the district school board select one of the federally mandated turnaround options for failing schools.
- ✓ Would have guaranteed that each and every student be assigned to an effective or highly effective teacher at least every other year.

Transforming Education with Technology

PASSED

HB 7063 – This legislation moves Florida one step closer to harnessing the power of technology to transform and customize education for the digital age. Through 21st century technology, every student can receive a high-quality education personalized to meet their unique learning style and pace; teachers will be empowered with more tools and rich content to more effectively reach their students.

Legislation Highlights:

- ✓ Expands access to full-time digital learning options for students in grades 2–5 by removing the prior public school enrollment requirement. Now any K–5 public, private or home education student can enroll full-time in a virtual program.
- ✓ Allows eligible Florida elementary school students to take an individual, part-time digital learning course through the Florida Virtual School or through a District Virtual Instruction Program.
- ✓ Expands the popular “Tebow Law” to allow full-time Florida Virtual School students to participate in their local school’s extracurricular activities, including athletics, marching band and academic clubs.

Funding Student Achievement

PASSED

HB 7059 – Recognizing and rewarding student learning instead of just seat-time is the next step toward providing every Florida student with a quality education that will meet their unique learning style and pace. This year, the Legislature voted to make full funding for specific core courses contingent upon a student demonstrating mastery of the course material. This makes Florida one of the first states in the nation to link funding to students mastering the course content, rather than the number of hours spent in the classroom.

Legislation Highlights:

- ✓ Bases full funding on a student successfully completing the course, as measured by the state’s end-of-course assessment.
- ✓ Funds high school students for 24 credits, not necessarily four years. This allows students to graduate from high school in less than four years if they complete all the general requirements for graduation, yet it still provides full funding to districts even if students graduate early.
- ✓ Incentivizes school districts to encourage students to take an end-of-course assessment in lieu of the course if the student has already mastered content.
- ✓ Establishes accelerated learning options for K–12 students by requiring each school to offer whole grade and midyear promotions, subject-matter acceleration, virtual instruction in higher grade level subjects and the credit acceleration program.

Strengthening and Streamlining State and Federal Accountability

PASSED

HB 7127 – Florida’s comprehensive reforms, including its accountability system, have earned recognition and flexibility from the federal government.

This legislation implements Florida’s federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Flexibility Waiver. Florida now has a single accountability system that clearly reports student progress and performance and provides intensive support for struggling schools.

2012–2013 Budget

PASSED

Lawmakers continued Florida’s historic investment in education by maintaining strong funding for programs that incentivize and reward student learning. The Legislature invested an additional \$1 billion for public schools this year. These funds will support Florida’s School Recognition Program and critical partnership with the College Board, which provides professional development for teachers to teach more rigorous AP classes

The Legislature invested an additional \$1 billion for public schools this year.

in Florida’s schools. The state spending plan also renews Florida’s commitment to reading by providing funding for an additional hour per day of intensive reading instruction for students in the 100 lowest-performing elementary schools, an expansion of Summer Reading Camps for any K–5 student who is having reading difficulties and an emphasis on K–5 reading intervention services provided by reading intervention teachers.



2012 Senate Report Card

Name	District	Score	Grade	Party
Alexander, JD	Lake Wales	103	A+	R
Altman, Thad	Melbourne	91	A	R
Benacquisto, Lizbeth	Wellington	108	A+	R
Bennett, Mike	Bradenton	100	A	R
Bogdanoff, Ellyn Setnor	Fort Lauderdale	91	A	R
Braynon, Oscar, II	Miami Gardens	60	D	D
Bullard, Larcenia	Miami	67	D	D
Dean, Charlie	Inverness	80	B	R
Detert, Nancy	Venice	75	C	R
Diaz de la Portilla, Miguel	Miami	100	A	R
Dockery, Paula	Lakeland	70	C	R
Evers, Greg	Crestview	100	A	R
Fasano, Mike	New Port Richey	70	C	R
Flores, Anitere	Miami	105	A+	R
Gaetz, Don	Destin	110	A+	R
Garcia, Rene	Hialeah	100	A	R
Gardiner, Andy	Orlando	110	A+	R
Gibson, Audrey	Jacksonville	40	F	D
Haridopolos, Mike	Melbourne	100	A	R
Hays, Alan	Umatilla	83	B	R
Jones, Dennis	Seminole	80	B	R
Joyner, Arthenia	Tampa	33	F	D
Latvala, Jack	St. Petersburg	100	A	R
Lynn, Evelyn	Daytona	60	D	R
Margolis, Gwen	Miami	57	F	D
Montford, Bill	Tallahassee	81	B	D
Negron, Joe	Palm City	100	A	R
Norman, Jim	Tampa	100	A	R
Oelrich, Steve	Gainesville	80	B	R
Rich, Nan	Sunrise	33	F	D
Richter, Garrett	Naples	100	A	R
Ring, Jeremy	Margate	94	A	D
Sachs, Maria Lorts	Delray	60	D	D
Simmons, David	Altamonte Springs	105	A+	R
Siplin, Gary	Orlando	83	B	D
Smith, Chris	Oakland Park	60	D	D
Sobel, Eleanor	Hollywood	50	F	D
Storms, Ronda	Brandon	100	A	R
Thrasher, John	Jacksonville	105	A+	R
Wise, Stephen	Jacksonville	94	A	R

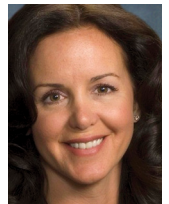


Honor Roll

The Foundation for Florida's Future honors the courageous lawmakers who demonstrate extraordinary leadership in advancing bold reforms to make education in Florida a model for the nation.

Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto

A major presence on the Education PreK-12 Committee, Senator Benacquisto advocated passionately on behalf of Florida's parents and students. She successfully fought to reach more students with quality, customized education options through the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship, and under her leadership, the Senate nearly passed a groundbreaking bill to empower more parents to engage in their child's education.



Senator Don Gaetz

Senator Gaetz, a successful businessman and former superintendent of Okaloosa County Schools, knows firsthand the importance of student-centered policies. Through his leadership, Florida passed innovative legislation to reward and fund schools for student learning instead of just seat-time. As the next Senate President, Senator Gaetz is sure to continue building on successful policies and advancing new education reforms.



2012 House of Representatives Report Card

Senate Majority Leader Andy Gardiner



In 2012, Senator Gardiner championed a digital learning bill and demonstrated uncompromised commitment to the future of our state's students. As Senate

Majority Leader, he led lawmakers to pass bold, student-centered legislation. Thanks to his work, more students will have access to digital learning, and full-time Florida Virtual School students will be able to participate in their local school's interscholastic extracurricular activities.

Senator Bill Montford



As CEO of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, Senator Montford represented a powerful voice for students on

the Education PreK-12 Committee. Senator Montford sponsored a bill to strengthen and streamline state and federal accountability for education in the Sunshine State, and he supported other important bills that further expand quality, customized education to Florida's students.

Senator Jeremy Ring



Recognized as a champion of parental choice, Senator Ring continues to exemplify Florida's bipartisan support for transformational education reforms.

Senator Ring demonstrated his commitment to high-quality, customized education by voting to advance digital learning and accelerated learning options for Florida's students. He was a critical ally for the Parent Empowerment Act as it moved through the committee process. Senator Ring's overall support helped keep students a priority in 2012.

Name	District	Score	Grade	Party
Abruzzo, Joseph	Wellington	20	F	D
Adkins, Janet	Fernandina Beach	100	A	R
Ahern, Larry	St. Petersburg	100	A	R
Albritton, Ben	Bartow	100	A	R
Artiles, Frank	Miami	100	A	R
Aubuchon, Gary	Cape Coral	100	A	R
Baxley, Dennis	Ocala	100	A	R
Bembry, Leonard	Madison	63	D	D
Berman, Lori	Delray Beach	17	F	D
Bernard, Mack	West Palm Beach	40	F	D
Bileca, Michael	West Miami	108	A+	R
Boyd, Jim	Bradenton	100	A	R
Brandes, Jeff	St. Petersburg	105	A+	R
Brodeur, Jason	Sanford	100	A	R
Broxson, Doug	Gulf Breeze	100	A	R
Bullard, Dwight	Miami	0	F	D
Burgin, Rachel	Riverview	100	A	R
Caldwell, Matt	Fort Myers	100	A	R
Campbell, Daphne	Miami Shores	0	F	D
Cannon, Dean	Winter Park	100	A	R
Chestnut, Chuck, IV	Gainesville	0	F	D
Clarke-Reed, Gwyn	Pompano Beach	46	F	D
Clemens, Jeff	Lake Worth	20	F	D
Coley, Marti	Marianna	110	A+	R
Corcoran, Richard	New Port Richey	110	A+	R
Costello, Fred	Ormond Beach	100	A	R
Crisafulli, Steve	Merritt Island	100	A	R
Cruz, Janet	Tampa	0	F	D
Davis, Daniel	Jacksonville	100	A	R
Diaz, Jose Felix	Miami	100	A	R
Dorworth, Chris	Heathrow	100	A	R
Drake, Brad	DeFuniak Springs	100	A	R
Eisnagle, Eric	Orlando	100	A	R
Ford, Clay	Pensacola	100	A	R
Fresen, Erik	Miami	110	A+	R
Frishe, Jim	Belleair Bluffs	100	A	R
Fullwood, Reggie	Jacksonville	25	F	D
Gaetz, Matt	Fort Walton Beach	100	A	R
Garcia, Luis, Jr.	Miami	19	F	D

2012 House of Representatives Report Card

Name	District	Score	Grade	Party
Gibbons, Joe	Pembroke Park	17	F	D
Glorioso, Rich	Plant City	100	A	R
Gonzalez, Eddy	Hialeah Gardens	100	A	R
Goodson, Tom	Titusville	67	D	R
Grant, James "J.W."	Tampa	100	A	R
Grimsley, Denise	Sebring	100	A	R
Hager, Bill	Boca Raton	100	A	R
Harrell, Gayle	Port St. Lucie	100	A	R
Harrison, Shawn	Temple Terrace	100	A	R
Holder, Doug	Sarasota	100	A	R
Hooper, Ed	Clearwater	100	A	R
Horner, Mike	Kissimmee	100	A	R
Hudson, Matt	Naples	100	A	R
Hukill, Dorothy	Port Orange	100	A	R
Ingram, Clay	Pensacola	100	A	R
Jenne, Evan	Fort Lauderdale	20	F	D
Jones, Mia	Jacksonville	0	F	D
Julien, John Patrick	North Miami Beach	93	A	D
Kiar, Marty	Davie	33	F	D
Kreegel, Paige	Punta Gorda	100	A	R
Kriseman, Rick	St. Petersburg	0	F	D
Legg, John	Port Richey	100	A	R
Logan, Ana Rivas	Miami	100	A	R
Lopez-Cantera, Carlos	Miami	100	A	R
Mayfield, Debbie	Vero Beach	100	A	R
McBurney, Charles	Jacksonville	100	A	R
McKeel, Seth	Lakeland	100	A	R
Metz, Larry	Eustis	100	A	R
Moraitis, George, Jr.	Fort Lauderdale	100	A	R
Nehr, Peter	Tarpon Springs	100	A	R
Nelson, Bryan	Apopka	100	A	R
Nuñez, Jeanette	Miami	100	A	R
Oliva, Jose	Hialeah	100	A	R
O'Toole, Marlene	The Villages	100	A	R
Pafford, Mark	West Palm Beach	0	F	D
Passidomo, Kathleen	Naples	100	A	R
Patronis, Jimmy	Panama City	100	A	R
Perman, Steve	Boca Raton	40	F	D
Perry, W. Keith	Gainesville	100	A	R

➤ Senator Gary Siplin

A bold champion of school choice, Senator Siplin is a leading example of the growing bipartisan support for Florida's proven voucher programs. As a member of both the Subcommittee on Education PreK-12 Appropriations and the Budget Subcommittee on Higher Education Appropriations, Senator Siplin played a critical role in advancing student-centered legislation in 2012.



➤ Representative Michael Bileca

This year, Representative Bileca established a track record for challenging the status quo on behalf of Florida's students. During session, Representative Bileca sponsored the historic "Parent Empowerment Act" and fought to empower moms and dads with an informed choice and voice to direct their child's educational path and improve their current school.



➤ Representative Marti Coley

As Chair of the PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee, Representative Coley's influence will resonate throughout Florida's schools this year. A teacher by trade, Representative Coley led lawmakers to protect and increase funding for Florida's school recognition program and to provide an overall increase to the public school budget.



2012 House of Representatives Report Card

Representative Richard Corcoran



Representative Corcoran has clearly displayed his commitment to Florida's families. This year, he sponsored a bill to expand access, eligibility and accountability to Florida's Tax Credit Scholarship

Program. This legislation removes barriers for elementary school students, empowering low-income families to select the best school to meet the needs of their children.

Representative Erik Fresen



As Chair of the K-20 Competitiveness Subcommittee and Vice-Chair of the PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee, Representative Fresen continues to be a leader

for reform. This session, he championed legislation to strengthen and improve Florida's accountability system.

Representative John Patrick Julien



An advocate for quality education, Representative Julien voted on behalf of Sunshine State students. This year, Representative Julien continued his support for Florida's Tax Credit Scholarship Program

and was a crucial ally in the fight to bring every child a quality, customized education.

Representative Kelli Stargel

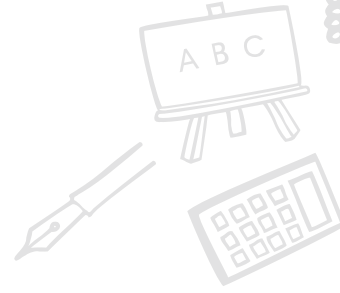


This year, Representative Stargel championed another round of student-centered reforms by sponsoring legislation to advance high-quality, customized education through digital learning and expanding

accelerated learning options for high-achieving students. Through her leadership, Florida passed legislation to reward schools for student learning instead of just seat-time.

Name	District	Score	Grade	Party
Pilon, Ray	Sarasota	100	A	R
Plakon, Scott	Longwood	100	A	R
Porter, Elizabeth	Lake City	100	A	R
Porth, Ari	Coral Springs	33	F	D
Precourt, Stephen	Orlando	100	A	R
Proctor, Bill	St. Augustine	100	A	R
Randolph, Scott	Orlando	0	F	D
Ray, Lake	Jacksonville	100	A	R
Reed, Betty	Tampa	40	F	D
Rehwinkel Vasilinda, Michelle	Tallahassee	20	F	D
Renuart, Ronald "Doc"	Ponte Vedra Beach	100	A	R
Roberson, Ken	Port Charlotte	100	A	R
Rogers, Hazelle "Hazel"	Lauderhill	43	F	D
Rooney, Patrick, Jr.	Palm Beach Gardens	100	A	R
Rouson, Darryl	St. Petersburg	50	F	D
Sands, Franklin	Sunrise	29	F	D
Saunders, Ron	Tavernier	40	F	D
Schenck, Rob	Spring Hill	100	A	R
Schwartz, Elaine	Hollywood	0	F	D
Slosberg, Irv	Boca Raton	20	F	D
Smith, Jimmie	Lecanto	100	A	R
Snyder, William	Stuart	100	A	R
Soto, Darren	Orlando	78	C	D
Stafford, Cynthia	Miami	0.08	F	D
Stargel, Kelli	Lakeland	120	A+	R
Steube, Greg	Sarasota	100	A	R
Taylor, Dwayne	Daytona Beach	20	F	D
Thompson, Geraldine "Geri"	Orlando	13	F	D
Thurston, Perry, Jr.	Fort Lauderdale	0	F	D
Tobia, John	Melbourne	100	A	R
Trujillo, Carlos	Miami	100	A	R
Van Zant, Charles	Palatka	100	A	R
Waldman, Jim	Coconut Creek	33	F	D
Watson, Barbara	Miami Gardens	0	F	D
Weatherford, Will	Wesley Chapel	100	A	R
Weinstein, Mike	Orange Park	73	C	R
Williams, Alan	Tallahassee	25	F	D
Williams, Trudi	Fort Myers	100	A	R
Wood, John	Haines City	100	A	R
Workman, Ritch	Melbourne	100	A	R
Young, Dana	Tampa	100	A	R

Florida: Leading the Nation in Education



1

Florida's fourth and eighth grade **students with disabilities** were ranked first in the nation in combined **math and reading gains**, according to the Nation's Report Card.

2

Florida earned the **highest grade ever** given by the 2011 National Council on Teacher Quality's biennial report, *State Teacher Policy Yearbook*. The report named Florida a "best practice state" for: Teacher Prep Program Accountability, Pay Scales, Performance Pay and Reduction in Force.

3

Florida ranks third in the nation in **producing additional high school graduates** between 2002–2009, according to the 2012 America's Promise report, *Building a Grad Nation*.

4

Florida's **low-income students** ranked third in combined progress in fourth and eighth grade **reading and math scores**, according to the Nation's Report Card.

5

Florida is fourth in the nation on modernizing the **teaching profession**, according to the 2012 Education Week report, *Quality Counts*. Florida's national success in this category is in part because of the state's outcome-based teacher evaluation system, requirements for earning a teaching license and financial incentives for teachers extending beyond base salary.

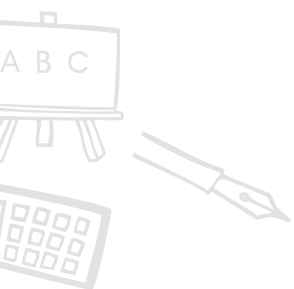


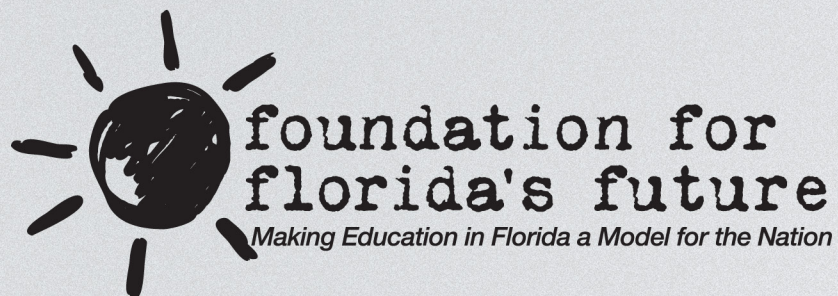


- 6 Florida's **low-income fourth graders** are ranked fourth in the nation when it comes to **reading on grade level or higher**, according to the Nation's Report Card.
- 7 Florida is fifth in the nation on **standards, assessments** and **accountability**, according to the 2012 Education Week report, *Quality Counts*. Florida has been a consistent leader in setting high expectations for students, teachers and schools.
- 8 Florida's **Hispanic students** have made great strides in **closing the achievement gap** in fourth grade reading and fourth and eighth grade math. As a combined average, Hispanic students have improved a grade level each year since 2003.
- 9 Florida's **African-American students** have **closed the achievement gap** with white students faster than the national average every year since 2003.
- 10 Florida's **Hispanic students read as well or better than the average student in 21 states**.

Thank you.

With your help, Florida can push the nation forward.
To learn more or to donate, visit www.afloridapromise.org.





To learn more or to donate to the
Foundation for Florida's Future, visit:

www.afloridapromise.org

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